

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the originally-filed Abstract of the Disclosure, and add the accompanying new Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

Page 3, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

--Accordingly, the above-stated object and others to become apparent as the specification progresses, are accomplished by the invention, according to which, briefly stated, the slide feeding unit for a microscope includes a slide magazine which has a base plate; two end walls; a side wall; an open side; a toothed rack secured externally to the side wall and being ~~parallel~~ perpendicular to the base plate; and slide guiding elements oriented perpendicularly to the open side. The unit further includes a magazine moving mechanism which has a trough for receiving the magazine in a fitting relationship with the magazine base plate and with the magazine end walls. The trough has opposite side plates each provided with openings. The magazine moving mechanism further has two shafts rotatably supported by the trough and extending along the trough side plates, respectively; a drive for rotating the shafts; feeding gears rotatably supported in respective openings of the side plates and adapted to mesh with the toothed rack for advancing the magazine in a direction of advance; lifting gears rotatably held in the side plates substantially coplanar with an inner

surface of the side plates. Each lifting gear has a pin oriented perpendicularly to the lifting gear face. Pins on the lifting gears supported on one of the side plates are in alignment with pins on the lifting gears supported on the other of the side plates. Driving worm gears are rotated by the shafts and mesh with ~~the feeding gears and~~ the lifting gears. The unit also includes a slide feeding device traversing the trough and having a robot arm displaceable perpendicularly to the direction of advance of the magazine for removing a slide from the magazine; and a drive for moving the robot arm.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 1 shows a microscope slide magazine 1 structured according to the invention, receiving microscope slides 2. The magazine 1 has a base plate 3, a side wall 4 and two end walls 5. The upper face 6 of the base plate 3 is provided with rails [[6]] between which the slides 2 may be inserted through the open side of the magazine 1. The side wall 4 is provided with a toothed rack 7.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 29, bridging pages 5 and 6, with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 2 shows the magazine moving device which includes a trough 8 formed of a bottom plate 9 and opposite side plates 10. The trough 8 is dimensioned in such a manner that the magazine 1, inserted into the trough 8 with the magazine walls 5

perpendicular to the trough plates 10, fits into the inner construction of the trough 8. A shaft 12 driven by a servomotor 11 is disposed externally of one of the side plates 10 and extends therealong, parallel thereto. The shaft 12 includes two in-phase driving worm gears 13 which mesh with respective ~~pinions~~ feeding gears 14 rotatably supported in openings provided in the side plate 10. On each side plate 10 two pairs of lifting gears 15 are mounted; their axis of rotation is oriented perpendicularly to the side plates 10. Each lifting gear 15 is, on its surface oriented toward the inside of the trough 8, provided with two pins 16 extending perpendicularly from the lifting gear surface and situated at opposite ends of the lifting gear diameter. To the side plates 10 rails 17 are affixed which vertically guide the magazines 1. A slide feeding device 18 traverses the side plates 10 in the space between two pairs of rails 17. The slide feeding device 18 is oriented perpendicularly to the side plates 10.--

Page 6, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 24, with the following amended paragraph:

--It is advantageous if the magazine moving mechanism is arranged in a tilted position wherein the magazines are tilted backward, their base plates including an angle of about 10 to 45° with respect to a horizontal plane. In this case, there is no need of matching the slides, they will automatically take up the right position upon inserting them into the magazines. This will

result in a simple handling on the one hand and operational safety on the other hand.--

Page 7, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

--Furthermore, there is no need of dead spots as in revolving magazines. ~~A-There~~ There is a need for a volume of about 18 slides in a revolving magazine receiving 6 slides.--

Page 10, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

--A further advantage is that the magazines to be used ~~[[an]]~~ and the others already used are always on different sides of the slide feeding device. In this way, the magazines can not be ~~confound~~ confused, moreover they can be fed or taken out during operation of the device.--